

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OEXC, YO

SUBJECT:INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM: VISIT OF
YUGOSLAV PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS
REF: BELGRADE 4036

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT VISIT OF FEDERAL ASSEMBLY GROUP
TO MEXICO IN SEPTEMBER PRESENTS USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO
INVITE GROUP FOR STOPOVER IN THE US. HOWEVER, APART
FROM THE PROPOSED LENGTH OF THE VISIT (THREE WEEKS) WHICH
SOUNDS SOMEWHAT LONG BOTH TO DEPARTMENT AND YUGOSLAV
EMBASSY, THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.

2. FIRST, AS EMBASSY AWARE, COST OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL BY
US CONGRESSMEN ABROAD, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTA-
TION AND LOCAL EXPENSES, IS PAID BY OFFICIAL US FUNDS.
LOCAL HOSPITALITY SUCH AS DINNERS, RECEPTIONS, ETC. ARE

GENERALLY ONLY ITEMS COVERED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS.
CONSEQUENTLY, AND IN THE INTERESTS OF RECIPROCITY, DEPART-
MENT BELIEVES THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS
VISITING THE US SHOULD BE HANDLED IN ROUGHLY ANALAGOUS
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WAY. SECOND POINT IS THAT US CONGRESS IS NOT IN POSITION

TO RECIPROCATATE KIND OF LOCAL HOSPITALITY WHICH YUGOSLAVS
AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS ARE INCLINED TO EXTEND SO

GENEROUSLY. THUS, VISITING PARLIAMENTARIANS COULD NOT BE
CONSIDERED GUESTS OF THE US CONGRESS.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT BEST WAY TO
HANDLE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY GROUP WOULD BE FOR THEM TO COVER
BULK OF THEIR COSTS IN US SUCH AS HOTELS, MEALS AND
DOMESTIC TRAVEL. CU COULD PROVIDE FUNDS FOR LOCAL TRANS-
PORTATION IN CITIES VISITED. (FYI THIS WAS FORMULA
USED FOR VISIT OF SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS IN 1974.) IN
ADDITION, DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE,
INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN. YUGOSLAV
EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE REMAINING ASSISTANCE
REQUIRED. -

4. IF EMBASSY FEELS THAT FOREGOING SCENARIO WOULD NOT
MEET ITS OBJECTIVES, DEPARTMENT COULD ALSO PROVIDE
REGULAR IV PROGRAM ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT DEPARTMENT
WOULD BE HOST, AND PARLIAMENTARIANS WOULD BE REGARDED AS
INDIVIDUAL IVS RATHER THAN DELEGATION. (PLEASE PROVIDE
DEFINITE DATES ASAP.)

5. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS SOONEST. SISCO

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